METHOD AND APPARATUS TO DYNAMICALLY CREATE A CUSTOMIZED USER
INTERFACE BASED ON A DOCUMENT TYPE DEFINITION

ABSTRACT

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A method on an information processing unit performing steps for creating a user interface (UI) to assemble a document that conforms to a particular document type definition. The method hides the specific syntax of document type definitions such as DTDs and schemas from the user. The method begins with a selection from a user for a document type or an existing document. Once the document type is selected or determined from the existing document the document type definitions are retrieved. The document type definitions include one or more elements. The method parses the elements which are subsequently mapped to one or more interface controls such as icons, pull-down menus, buttons, selection boxes, progress indicators, on-off checkmarks, scroll bars, windows, window edges for resizing the window, toggle buttons, forms, and UI widgets. UI can be GUIs or interactive voice response systems. A UI editor is presented by assembling the one or more interface controls without presenting specific document type definition syntax to a user. The UI editor permits the user to create and edit the content objects that are associated with the interface controls. The content objects are aggregated in an XML compatible format and ready to be checked in for further processing. The method permits specific UI interfaces to be created for specific publishing environments and at the same time permit the creation of reusable content objects.

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